



CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

MEDIA RELEASE

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State Estimates Delay in Fighting Climate Change Could Cost Billions

Governor's Climate Action Team previews its draft report on the economic impacts of climate change

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Today, the 16 members of the Climate Action Team (CAT), established by [Executive Order S-3-05](#), will hold a meeting to preview an upcoming report on the environmental and economic impacts from the effects of climate change in California.

The “Climate Action Team Biennial Report,” set to be released later this month for public comment, will synthesize 40 research papers focused solely on California impacts, as well as discuss future research coordination and adaptation strategies to address the effects of climate change.

Similar to an earlier report published in April 2006, the Report will update climate science studies with available new research. In addition, the Report will summarize new research on the economic impacts of climate change to California which is estimated to be in the billions of dollars if no mitigation or adaptation actions are taken. These important technical studies help guide the CAT in the development of policies that help reduce pollution and adapt to our changing climate to ensure that decisions are based on sound science.

The 40 papers analyze such research areas as the impacts of sea level rise, higher temperatures, increased wildfires, decreased water supplies, increased energy demand, among others, on the state's environment, industries and economic prosperity. Go to <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=289&year=2009&month=03> to view the PowerPoint presentations from today's meeting which include preview highlights of the full draft Report.

The majority of the funding for the scientific papers came from the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research Program (PIER). PIER supports energy research and development that helps improve the quality of life in California by bringing environmentally safe, affordable and reliable energy services and products to the marketplace.

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The papers were written by teams of world-class scientists from various disciplines based at prominent California universities and research institutions. Papers are peer reviewed by technical experts in private, public and governmental entities. When released later this month the papers will be posted at <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/publications/cat/>.

The CAT plays an essential role in the state's efforts to combat climate change. The CAT supports the implementation of the Scoping Plan – the state's roadmap to reach the greenhouse gas reduction goals required in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, or AB 32. This Plan calls for ambitious but achievable greenhouse gas emission reductions and moves our state toward a clean energy future. The CAT also plays a key role in implementing [Executive Order S-13-08](#) which calls for development of a state climate adaptation strategy by June 2009.

The CAT is made up of representatives from 16 state agencies, boards and departments including: Business, Transportation & Housing Agency; California Environmental Protection Agency; California Public Utilities Commission; Department of Food and Agriculture; Health and Human Services Agency; Natural Resources Agency; State and Consumer Services Agency—Department of General Services; Air Resources Board; California Energy Commission; Department of Conservation; Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; Department of Transportation; Department of Water Resources; Integrated Waste Management Board; and State Water Resources Control Board.

The meeting will start at 2:00 PM (PDT) and be held in the Byron Sher Auditorium at the Cal/EPA headquarters building at 1001 I Street in Sacramento. The meeting also will be webcast at www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast.

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